IN THE DRAWINGS:

Examiner approval of the proposed drawing amendments in Fig. 2, shown in the attached Replacement Sheet, is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 17-32 and 35-36 were examined in the Office Action mailed March 29, 2006, with claims 33-34 standing withdrawn pursuant to Election/Restriction Requirement.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 17-22, 25-27 and 29, and the indication that claims 23-24, 28, 30-32 and 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks address each of the March 29, 2006 objections and rejections.

Drawing Objections: The Applicant respectfully requests Examiner approval of the proposed drawing amendments shown in the attached Replacement Sheet. The first amendment corrects the second electrostatic filter reference number from 130 to 130', consistent with the original Specification. The second amendment illustrates the oxidation air inlet described in ¶ [0079] (discussed further in the § 112 remarks, below). No new matter is added.

Withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections: Consistent with the Examiner's helpful suggestion, the Applicant has amended paragraph [0047] to change "hole 22" to "opening 22." This amendment provides consistent nomenclature with the preceding references to element 22 (as in ¶ [0042]).

Paragraph [00100] is amended to correct "1" to "100," and "3" to "103," consistent with the reference numbers used in the original figures.

Withdrawal of the specification objections is respectfully requested.

<u>Section 112 Rejections</u>: The Applicant has amended the claims to resolve the pending § 112, second paragraph rejections as follows:

<u>Claim 23</u>: Amended to make clear the antecedent basis for the recited inlet and outlet, and to replace "these gases" with "the gaseous medium."

<u>Claim 28</u>: Amended to address the Examiner's comments regarding the relationships between the claimed air inlets and the other components of the claimed device, by reciting "at least one of an inlet for oxidation air <u>upstream of an oxidation catalyst</u> and an inlet for cleaning air <u>upstream of at least one of the at least one electrostatic filter</u>."

In response to the Examiner's comments regarding what is being claimed and how these structures are related to the other device elements, the Applicant notes that at several locations in the specification, there are disclosed the use of air inlets for both cleaning of the electrostatic filter elements, and for enhancing oxidation of gas components. *See, e.g.,* Specification at ¶ [0030]; ¶ [0064] (cleaning of collector structure 24 "by injecting air"); ¶ [0079] ("if we wish to favour the oxidation of CO ... it would be possible to install an air inlet valve upstream of oxidation catalyst 120"); ¶ [0088] ("In addition, there is also provided, in the region of the first electrostatic filter 130, a system for cleaning by air ... a non-return valve 141 for air injection at one of the ends of the receiving zone of the first electrostatic filter 130 ..."); ¶ [00111] ("A system for cleaning with air can also be envisioned for cleaning the second electrostatic filter 130'.").

In order to satisfy the requirement for illustration of claimed elements, the

Applicant has amended ¶ [0079] to identify the originally-recited oxidation air inlet as "air inlet 141a." A corresponding amendment to include the described air inlet upstream of the oxidation catalyst 120 in Fig. 2 is also proposed. In view of the original disclosure, the Applicant is requesting approval of this drawing change as a clarification which does not add new matter.

Claim 30: Amended to correct dependence from claim 28 to claim 27 to resolve the antecedent basis issue.

Claim 31: Canceled.

Claim 32: Amended to conform the claim to U.S. practice.

Claims 35-36: The Applicant respectfully submits these claims are sufficiently definite, and no amendment is necessary. As noted in Specification ¶ [00109], the recited finishing filter is an alternative to the mechanical filter described at ¶¶ [0067]-[0075] and recited in claim 27:

> Other mechanical filters, such as inverted-V impact-type devesiculating filters or finishing filters, can supplement the treatment device 100 in Figure 2 or replace filter 110 or one of the two electrostatic filters 130, 130'. The use of these mechanical filters may be of interest for optimizing the distribution of the gases or for reducing the noise generated by the device at its outlet.

Specification ¶ [00109]. The Applicant respectfully submits that this description and the subject matter recited in claims 35-36 would be immediately and readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, and thus no further amendment is required.

Withdrawal of the § 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Section 101 Rejection: The Applicant has canceled claim 31, without prejudice to the subject matter therein, rendering the § 101 rejection moot.
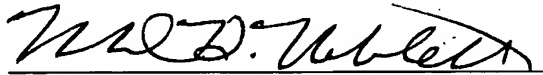
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-24, 28, 30, 32 and 35-36 are in condition for allowance, along with allowed claims 17-22, 24-27 and 29. Early and favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims 17-30, 32 and 35-36 is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037107.51019US).

Respectfully submitted,

June 1, 2006

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